

Message Text

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44

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ERDE-00

ERDA-05 NRC-05 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00 /116 W

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R 131232Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRASILKA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3993

ALSO FOR ERDA AND NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR, AR

SUBJ: SENATOR RIBICOFF'S JUNE 3 COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION:
FRENCH-ARGENTINE COOPERATION

REF: PARIS 14498

1. RE FRENCH-ARGENTINE COOPERATION ALLEGED BY SEN. RIBICOFF,
AND DESPITE PART 3) OF PARA 2 OF REFTTEL, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD
BY ACTING CNEA PRESIDENT MARIO BANCORA THAT THERE IS ESSEN-
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TIALLY ZERO COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY BETWEEN FRANCE AND

ARGENTINA; AND CERTAINLY NOTHING IN WAY OF A "PLUTONIUM PILOT PLANT" OR EVEN IN THE CHEMICAL REPROCESSING FIELD. LAST "COOPERATION" HE COULD RECALL WAS A VISIT OF ABOUT A YEAR AGO OF A FRENCH RAW MATERIALS EXPERT TO THE SIERRA PINTADA URANIUM ORE DEPOSIT IN MENDOZA PROVINCE.

2. COMMENT: WE TEND TO BELIEVE BANCORA ON THIS AND REALLY DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT SEN. RIBICOFF MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING. JUDGING BY THE FRENCH STATEMENT (REFTEL), IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FRANCE MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE MORE TO DO WITH ARGENTINA IN NUCLEAR ENERGY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE FRENCH WERE REFERRING TO THE VARIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDING AND WITH WHICH BANCORA WAS UNAWARE OR TO WHICH HE DOES NOT ASCRIBE GREAT IMPORTANCE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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